The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Numismagram Newsletter #88 (XII/2022)

We’re back with our final upload of the year with a group of twelve medals from the expansive series honoring past members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Predominantly celebrating those who made contributions to the fields of science and medicine, there are also those who contributed to the liberal arts and to military science. Designs tended to feature a bust of the honoree on the obverse and scene upon the reverse that many times presented Neoclassical allegories and/or direct representations of the honoree’s specific field of contribution.

One such example is that of Erik Acharius, a famous botanist who later became known as the “father of lichenology” on account of his pioneering the taxonomy of lichens. Rather appropriately, the reverse of his medal features a rocky knoll and dead tree, all of which are clearly covered in lichen…

Another interesting example is that of Emanuel Swedenborg, who was a celebrated philosopher, scientist, mystic, and Christian theologian, and who was inspirational in the concept that would later become known as the “New Church” or Swedenborgianism. The reverse of his commemorative medal displays an older man in an ancient-style robe standing before the Temple of Isis, with its expertly and intricately rendered hieroglyphics discernable…

Yet another is Sven Nilsson, who was an important zoologist and archaeologist. His medal perfectly captures his teaching profession in the area of natural history, with a reclining moose, a Stonehenge-like rocky construction, and birds of prey flying overhead…

For all of this upload's new medals, click **here** or on the banner art at the top of the page. With the holidays now just around the corner, we are wishing you all a relaxing and peaceful season, in whichever manner you may celebrate, as well as a prosperous New Year. Speaking of the New Year, we will be back again with another group of art and historical medals on January 2nd, so stay tuned for that!

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Pleasanton, Calif
+1 (717) 917-0047

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